

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT
BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE**

Committee Meeting Minutes

December 09, 2020

1. Roll Call of Members:

1. Alan Smith (2nd Vice-Chair)
2. Anita Ortega
3. Catherine Callahan
4. Chris Mullin
5. Clarence Fischer
6. Don Queen - ABSENT
7. Emily Witkin - ABSENT
8. Gerry Newell (Vice-Chair)
9. Hale Zukas
10. Herb Hastings
11. Janet Abelson
12. Janice Armigo Brown
13. Marjorie (Marji) McWee
14. Randall Glock (Chair)
15. Roland Wong
16. Valerie Buell
17. VACANT
18. VACANT

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Laura Timothy
Bob Franklin

BART Director (s), BART Staff, and Guests of the Public:

Robert Raburn, BART Board Director
Robert (Bob) Powers, BART General Manager (Staff)
Michael Jones, BART Deputy General Manager (Staff)
Ed Alvarez, BART Police Chief (Staff)
Val Menotti (Staff)
Carl Holmes (Staff)
Rodd Lee (Staff)
Maceo Wiggins (Staff)

Pam Herhold (Staff)
Tim Chan (Staff)
Tamar Allen (Staff)
Greg Lombardi (Staff)
Tian Feng (Staff)
Jumana Nabti (Staff)
Danielle Dai (Staff)
Bece Kidder (Captioner)
Mayra Perez (Captioner)
Brandon Guyton (Guest)
Larry Bunn (Guest)
Hong Mei (Guest)

2. Public Comments

No public comments.

3. Approval of November 12, 2020 Draft Minutes

Alan Smith moved approval of the November 12, 2020 meeting with the amended minutes. Clarence Fischer seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with eleven (11) in favor, zero (0) against, zero (0) abstentions.

4. Support Letter to Congress for Funding Request

Alan Smith led the agenda item.

Alan reported that BART continues to have fiscal challenges as a result of low ridership during the pandemic. He further reported that Bob Powers has been doing a great job of leadership on a national basis lobbying effort in Congress for emergency relief funding. Alan Smith thought it was appropriate for the BATF to raise our voices to support this effort.

Alan shared two draft letters to the U.S. Senate majority and minority leaders. He proposed that similar letters be sent to Senators Feinstein and Harris, along with letters to the nine House members who represent the five Bay Area counties with BART stations. They would be signed by Chair, Randall Glock and Bob Franklin agreed to provide a cover letter.

Alan Smith moved approval of the support letter to Congress for funding request. Herb Hastings seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with eleven (11) in favor, zero (0) against, zero (0) abstentions.

5. BART General Update and Discussion

Bob Franklin led the agenda item and introduced the speakers to introduce themselves and share any new projects and/or any updates:

Robert Raburn – BART Board of Director

Robert Raburn said that it is always a pleasure to be part of the BATF meetings and wishes everyone “Happy Holidays.”

Robert (Bob) Powers – BART General Manager

Robert (Bob) Powers stated it is his honor and privilege to be part of the meeting, but we could not have done it without the commitment from our partners like the advisory committees. They are all very important and they all play a key role in BART’s focus on keeping the Bay Area moving. He thanked the BATF members for their commitment and dedication.

Michael Jones – BART Deputy General Manager

Michael Jones introduced himself and expressed disappointment that this meeting is being held through the virtual world instead engaging with the BATF members over refreshments. He added BART is essential for transit folks and workers, so the work that BATF members do is key in advocating to make sure that we do not lose sight of our core mission and make sure we take care of all of our riders.

Ed Alvarez – BART Police Chief

BART Police Chief, Ed Alvarez shared updates within the BART Police Department:

- There have been promotions in the department.
- They continue their community outreach to connect with riders and communities.
- BART Watch App launched in August 2020.
- BART Board of Directors approved funding for the ongoing ambassador program, which has been successful.
- Crime statistics are down.
- The Police Department is moving forward with fare inspectors and is continuing to push for presence in the system to help maintain the safety of our riders.

Val Menotti – Chief Planning & Development Officer

Val Menotti thanked everybody for volunteering as BATF members and really appreciates their input. He went over the Planning and Development Department and

informed members that there are six groups in his area, including Bob Franklin's group, Customer Access and Accessibility. He highlighted a few things that are happening in his department focusing in the year 2021 and beyond:

- Ambitious Transit Oriented Development (TOD) program.
- The corridor study between Ashby BART Station and the El Cerrito BART stations.
- Looking at Paratransit being more efficient.
- Working closely with the MTC Blue Ribbon Task Force in response to the pandemic and looking at longer term strategies and how to be more efficient to customers.
- Department is working on the new Transbay Crossing also known as Link 21.

Carl Holmes – Assistant General Manager in Design & Construction

Carl Holmes announced BART staff will be moving to the new BART Headquarters on Webster Street in Oakland and is scheduled to move to the new building at the end of June 2021. He shared that the El Cerrito del Norte BART Station modernization construction should be completed around the spring of 2021.

Rodd Lee – Assistant General Manager in the Office of External Affairs

Rodd Lee introduced himself and appreciated BATF members taking action on the support letters to the Bay Area Delegate regarding emergency relief funding.

Maceo Wiggins – Director of Office of Civil Rights

Maceo Wiggins introduced himself and thanked members for the invitation. He mentioned his department is responsible for the work they do on Title VI.

Pam Herhold – General Manager Performance & Budget

Pam Herhold started off by stating things are really tough. But we have a good team coming up with creative ideas and thoughtfully approaching how we address our plummeting revenues. She added she is optimistic as we move forward. She wanted to re-emphasize that right now our plan does not include any BART station closures and the public will be notified in advance if there are any station closures.

Tim Chan – Group Manager in Station Planning

Tim Chan shared the Elevator Attendance Program grant has extended until the end of Fiscal Year 21 and is aiming to partner with SMFTA today on applying for more money to continue the funding for the elevator attendant program at the San Francisco Downtown BART Stations. Tim Chan announced he will return in January 2021 to present on two different items: The Lake Merritt Transit Oriented Development Access Study and the West Oakland Station modernization program.

Tamar Allen – Assist General Manager in Operations

Tamar Allen and Greg Lombardi shared a PowerPoint presentation “Next Generation Faregate Updates.” Tamar Allen mentioned the field test was at the Richmond Station at the ADA faregate. The faregates are swing gates just like the ones at Richmond Station.

Tamar Allen listed elevator enclosures projects that have been completed:

- Oakland Coliseum Station
- Concord Station
- 12th St. Oakland City Center Station
- South Hayward Station
- Downtown Berkeley Station
- Montgomery Station

Tamar Allan also listed new elevator faregate projects either in process of being installed or scheduled to be installed:

- Bay Fair Station
- Balboa Park Station
- El Cerrito del Norte
- El Cerrito Plaza Station
- Embarcadero Station
- Civic Center Station
- Walnut Creek Station
- North Berkeley Station
- 19th St. Oakland Station
- Rockridge Station
- Orinda Station
- Powell St. Station

Greg Lombardi – Assistant Chief in Maintenance and Engineering

Greg Lombardi introduced himself and shared the PowerPoint presentation with Tamar Allen.

Tian Feng – District Architect

Tian Feng introduced himself.

Jumana Nabti – Manager of Access Programs in Customer Access & Accessibility Department

Jumana Nabti gave a preview of some projects that are coming up next year that will impact and/or improve the bus areas and curb zones at BART stations.

6. Member Announcements

Roland Wong shared that he met with Director Liz Ames and Randall Glock at the South Hayward BART Station to do a follow up with the dim lighting in the elevators and mentioned that the lighting has been much improved.

Roland Wong voiced concerns to Director Liz Ames about the restroom doors at BART stations. He expressed the doors are pretty difficult to open to get into and out of the restrooms, especially for people who use mobility devices. Director Liz Ames thought of an idea to have a grant to fund to more accessible restrooms doors at BART stations and hopes this project will go through.

Valerie Buell shared that the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) had their meeting on December 2, 2020 and Director Robert Raburn attended the meeting. She appreciated Director Robert Raburn for attending the meeting and invited members to future RAC meetings.

7. Staff Announcements

No staff announcements.

8. Chairperson Announcements

Gerry Newell, Vice Chairperson, thanked members, staff, and guests for allowing him to run the today's meeting.

Alan Smith thanked Elena Van Loo, Laura Timothy, and Bob Franklin for scheduling guest speakers and added we did a great job. Gerry Newell agreed with Alan Smith.

Bob Franklin thanked the chairs for the recognition.

9. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics

- New BART Heard Quarter Updates
- West Oakland Modernization Plan Concept Plan
- Lake Merritt Transit Oriented Development Access Study
- Next Generation Faregate Updates

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, **January 28, 2021.**